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SUBJECT: GOAJ ISSUES SIX-YEAR LICENSES FOR ANS TV AND RADIO

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(SBU) The National Television and Radio Council (NTRC) today announced its to award the ANS Television and Radio company 6-year licenses for both television and radio broadcasting. NTRC Chairman Nushirivan Maharramli has been quoted in the local media on the decision as saying, "Until now, we have been unable to take such a decision because under the rules governing tenders for broadcast licenses there must be multiple bidders. After the implementation of a change in tender rules, we were able to resolve the problem." We confirmed the news with ANS President Vahid Mustafayev and Vice President Seyfulla Mustafayev, both of whom were ecstatic and relieved. Vahid Mustafayev said that this had been "one of the most difficult fights" of his life. He thanked the Ambassador and the Embassy for our support over the last several months.

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